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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

TO: Educators Across Montana

FROM: Linda McCulloch
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: May 2, 2005

RE: Teacher Appreciation Week

"To teach is to touch lives forever." Anonymous

It is a real pleasure to thank all of you across the state in honor of America's observance of Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-7, 2005. This is a time to honor teachers and recognize the lasting contributions you make to our children's lives.

Your energy, enthusiasm and dedication to public education and Montana's children are unsurpassed. Teachers open children's minds to new ideas, knowledge and dreams. Teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship. Teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, motivators and mentors. Teachers continue to influence students long after school days are only memories.

There is no other profession that touches so many people in such a special and lasting way as teaching does. I fondly remember my two decades as an elementary school teacher and the rich moments as I watched one of my students learn to read, discover their favorite character in a book or figure out the answer to a tough question. There are few professions that touch the human soul and are as rewarding as being a teacher.

You have my deepest thanks and appreciation. I am inspired by the discipline, resourcefulness and goodness you bring every day to your job. Montana is fortunate to have all of you who wake up every morning committed to helping bring out the best in our 146,552 students.

Thank you... and happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."